

10,565

DEC 11 1958

RM/R
FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIG. GEN. A. J. GOODPASTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Willy Brandt's Views on Berlin

In response to your request of December 10, there
is enclosed a memorandum on the above subject.

mc 11/31/59

JOHN A. CALHOUN
John A. Calhoun
Director
Executive Secretariat

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762.00/12-1158

Enclosure:

Memorandum.

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Retyped in S/S-RO 12/11/58

S/S-RO

DEC 11 1958

A TRUE COPY OF
SIGNED ORIGINAL

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762.00/12-1158

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

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SUBJECT: Willy Brandt's Views on Berlin

Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt's initial reaction to the Soviet note of November 27 proposing that West Berlin be made a "free city" was: The proposal is unacceptable. There can be no isolated solution of the Berlin question. If a contribution to international relaxation and German reunification is to be made, as the Soviet note indicates, the division of Germany must be overcome. Reunification, not a change of Berlin's status, must be the subject of international negotiation.

On December 10, Brandt said that he agreed with Adenauer that Soviet demands for a "free city" in West Berlin were unacceptable and that negotiations on Berlin must not be conducted under pressure of an ultimatum. Forthcoming negotiations must be based on existing legal status of Berlin. He emphasized that the Berlin crisis should not provide the point of departure for East-West discussions of the German problem. The Western reply should express willingness and patience to negotiate on reunification. These views are largely shared by Chancellor Adenauer.

The press, however, reported that differences exist between Adenauer and Brandt regarding Berlin. These reports are misleading. The attitudes, policies and actions of the two men are in harmony on almost every major issue regarding Berlin and the Western response to Khrushchev's November 27 Note. It is, in fact, this very identity of views which is the cause of the greatest embarrassment to Brandt within his own party, many of whose leaders oppose Adenauer on almost every major issue. Press reports of "differences" between Adenauer and Brandt on minor matters, such as Adenauer's "electioneering" in Berlin, are therefore useful to Brandt in keeping some degree of harmony within the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

On the larger issue of Berlin, Adenauer opposes proposing broad negotiations with the USSR now on tactical grounds. He maintains that the Soviets must withdraw pressure on Berlin before any discussion of larger German problems can be considered. The most significant difference between Adenauer and Brandt concerns not Berlin but the issue of thermonuclear weapons for the West German army. Brandt, like most SPD leaders, wishes to restrict the West German army to the use of conventional weapons.

The best indication of the coincidence of Adenauer's and Brandt's views on Berlin despite differences on other matters is the fact that Brandt is the only other politician, besides Foreign Minister Brentano, who has been selected to accompany Adenauer to the forthcoming NATO meeting in Paris.

DRW:SAKcozak

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Clearances: EUR - Mr. Kohler;
GER - Mr. Hillenbrandt INR - Mr. Arneson

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By LV NARS, Date 11/22/89

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